

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, TUESDAY EVENING, 3/29

NO. 9

WIRES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KEN FREED FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: SECSTATE VANCE SAID TODAY THE LACK OF A RUSSIAN
RESPONSE TO AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR
ARMS TREATY MIGHT MEAN THE SOVIETS ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED.

OTHER POINTS:

--VANCE TOLD REPORTERS THE SALT PROPOSALS HE MADE MONDAY
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DID NOT COME UP ONCE IN FIVE HOURS OF TALKS TUESDAY WITH
GROMYKO. "INDEED, I'M GLAD IT DIDN'T COME UP TODAY",
VANCE QUOTED AS SAYING, "BECAUSE IT INDICATES TO ME THAT
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF
SALT AND THE PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN TABLED".

--MORE NEGOTIATIONS WERE SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY AND VANCE

SAID IT IS POSSIBLE HE MIGHT EXTEND HIS STAY.

--INSTEAD OF SALT, VANCE SAID HE AND GROMYKO DISCUSSED NUCLEAR TEST BANS, TROOP CUTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE, NON-PROLIFERATION, ARMS SALES, AND INDIAN OCEAN DEMILITARIZATION. VANCE SAID THEY "TOUCHED VERY BRIEFLY" ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND THAT "WE AGREED IN A NUMBER OF THESE AREAS TO SET UP FOLLOW-ON WORKING GROUPS TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS WE STARTED TODAY".

--VANCE APPARENTLY SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF AN EARLIER GROMYKO STATEMENT SOME THOUGHT INDICATED THE SOVIETS

MIGHT NOT INSIST ON PLO PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE. VANCE SAID HE FOUND THE DISCUSSION "USEFUL" AND THE SOVIET POSITION "CONSTRUCTIVE". HE SAID HE HAD AGREED WITH GROMYKO THAT NEITHER WOULD DISCUSS THE POLICIES OF THE OTHER SIDE.

--VANCE SAID THERE WAS "NO ALLUSION" TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN TUESDAY TALKS.

UPI

NICHOLAS DANILOFF FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: SECSTATE VANCE, WAITING FOR A SOVIET REPLY TO U.S. DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS, SAID TUESDAY THE U.S. AND RUSSIA WILL CREATE SEVERAL JOINT WORKING GROUPS ON MAJOR DIPLO-UNCLASSIFIED

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MATIC PROBLEMS. VANCE DECLINED TO IDENTIFY THE TASKS TO BE ASSIGNED TO "FOLLOW-ON WORKING GROUPS" UNTIL AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR CREATION. HE SAID THEY MIGHT MEET IN MOSCOW, WASHINGTON OR GENEVA.

OTHER POINTS:

--GROUPS PRESUMABLY WILL CONTINUE WORK ON SUCH LONG-TERM ISSUES AS RESTRAINING CONVENTIONAL ARMS SALES, DEMILITARIZING THE INDIAN OCEAN AND CURBING NUCLEAR WEAPONS SPREAD.

--VANCE APPEARED TO ATTACH NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO ABSENCE OF A SOVIET REPLY TO TWO U.S. PROPOSALS ON SALT. SAME QUOTE FOLLOWED ("INDICATES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY SOVIETS", ETC.) AS USED IN AP STORY ABOVE.

--OBSERVERS SAID IT APPEARED UNLIKELY U.S. AND SOVIETS WOULD ACHIEVE MAJOR SALT BREAKTHROUGH ON THIS TRIP.

--VANCE'S TUESDAY MEETINGS WITH GROMYKO FOCUSED ON MIDDLE EAST, INDIAN OCEAN, NON-PROLIFERATION, RESTRAINT OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SALES, AND MBFR.

--VANCE, ASKED ABOUT SOVIET REJECTION OF UPI VISA REQUEST, SAID HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE REFUSAL, COMMUNICATED EARLIER IN THE DAY TO UPI.

--VANCE AGAIN CHARACTERIZED HIS TALKS AS "BUSINESSLIKE" AND "USEFUL", WITHOUT INDICATING WHETHER HE WAS OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC ABOUT MAKING SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ON SALT.

REUTERS

ROY GUTMAN FROM MOSCOW

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LEAD: SECSTATE VANCE AND FONMIN GROMYKO REVIEWED KEY WORLD ISSUES FOR FIVE HOURS TODAY AND AGREED TO SET UP GROUPS TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE WORKING LEVEL. BUT THE CENTRAL AIM OF VANCE'S VISIT--TO BRING ABOUT A RESUMPTION OF SALT--DID NOT COME UP.

OTHER POINTS:

--VANCE TOLD REPORTERS HE WAS NOT UNHAPPY THAT SALT WAS NOT DISCUSSED. "IT WAS NOT ONLY EXPECTABLE, BUT IN A WAY I AM PLEASED BECAUSE IT LEADS ME TO GUESS THAT SERIOUS ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE PROPOSALS", HE SAID.

--IN TWO-HOUR MORNING SESSION TUESDAY, HE AND GROMYKO DISCUSSED MBFR AND MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. IN AFTERNOON THEY COVERED PROPOSALS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN, DEMILITARIZATION OF INDIAN OCEAN, NON-PROLIFERATION, ARMS SALES, SOVIET PROPOSALS TO ELIMINATE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND, BRIEFLY, SOUTHERN AFRICA.

--VANCE SAID THEY AGREED TO SET UP WORKING GROUPS IN A NUMBER OF THESE AREAS TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS. THE GROUPS MIGHT MEET IN MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, OR GENEVA, HE TOLD REPORTERS.

--VANCE DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAILS OF THE TUESDAY TALKS BUT SUMMED UP AS FOLLOWS: ON MBFR, BOTH SIDES FELT THEY MUST TRY TO MOVE TALKS "OUT OF THE DOLDRUMS"; ON MIDDLE EAST, "I HAD THE FEELING THEY WERE BEING CONSTRUCTIVE AND WISHED TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE AND ACTIVE ROLE AS CO-CHAIRMAN (OF GENEVA CONFERENCE)"; ON COMPREHENSIVE TEST

BAN, A GOOD DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE BUT STILL SOME OBVIOUS ISSUES REMAIN TO BE EXPLORED; ON ARMS SALES TO MIDDLE EAST, THE PROBLEM WOULD PROBABLY REMAIN UNRESOLVED UNTIL POLITICAL ISSUES ARE SETTLED.

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--WHILE TALKS WENT ON, SOVIET OFFICIALS TOLD UPI ITS VISA APPLICATION FOR A NEW CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW WAS BEING REJECTED. ASKED IF HE FELT THIS ACTION WAS A POLITICAL DECISION, VANCE SAID HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE.

--VANCE HAS OFFERED TO EXTEND TALKS BEYOND SCHEDULED END ON WEDNESDAY BUT HAS SO FAR RECEIVED NO RESPONSE.

--BREZHNEV PARTICIPATED ONLY IN FIRST OF FOUR SESSIONS THUS FAR. A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID VANCE DID NOT CONSIDER THIS A SNUB.

EVENING TELEVISION

NBC NEWS:

BRINKLEY: THE AMERICAN MISSION TO MOSCOW WAS STILL AT WORK TODAY AND THE AMERICAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY SECSTATE VANCE, HAD ITS SECOND SESSION WITH THE RUSSIANS. AT THE FIRST WORKING SESSION, VANCE GAVE THE RUSSIANS DETAILED DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS. THAT WAS LAST NIGHT. AT TODAY'S SESSION, THE RUSSIANS DID NOT RESPOND ON THAT SUBJECT. VANCE TOLD REPORTERS THAT BECAUSE OF THAT LACK OF RESPONSE, HE THINKS THE RUSSIANS ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN THE DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS. TODAY, THE TWO SIDES TALKED ABOUT WORLD PROBLEMS AND AGREED TO SET UP WORKING GROUPS TO CONTINUE THOSE DISCUSSIONS. (NOTHING FROM VALERIANI.)

CBS NEWS:

BERNARD KALB FROM MOSCOW

LEAD-IN BY CRONKITE: SECSTATE VANCE IS IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS WITH SOVIET LEADERS THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS. BUT ON THIS SECOND DAY OF THE SCHEDULED THREE DAYS OF MEETINGS, EVERYTHING BUT THAT WAS DISCUSSED.

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KALB: THE KREMLIN GROUNDS WERE FILLED WITH RUSSIAN TOURISTS TODAY, BUT THERE WERE EXCEPTIONS; SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO, SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. DOBRYNIN, AND THEN SECRETARY VANCE FOR THE FOURTH U.S.-SOVIET SESSION IN TWO DAYS. NO AMERICAN TELEVISION CAMERAS ALLOWED INSIDE THIS BUILDING; THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE HAVE SO FAR BEEN GIVEN NO OFFICIAL SOVIET CHARACTERIZATION OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH THE AMERICANS SIMPLY CALL "BUSINESS-LIKE". THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSED A VARIETY OF ISSUES, BUT THERE WAS ONE CONSPICUOUS OMISSION. ON THE EVE OF THE FINAL SCHEDULED DAY OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, VANCE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION TODAY OF THE CENTRAL QUESTION THAT BROUGHT HIM TO MOSCOW -- SALT AND THE U.S. PROPOSALS TABLED YESTERDAY TO CONTROL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. JOURNALISTS WERE SURPRISED. VANCE WAS ASKED WHETHER HE WAS DISAPPOINTED:

VANCE: I'M GLAD THAT IT DIDN'T COME UP TODAY BECAUSE IT INDICATES TO ME THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF SALT AND TO THE PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN TABLED. I'M NOT TRYING TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THAT, BUT I DO THINK IT INDICATES THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO IT.

KALB: THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROVIDING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THE KREMLIN WITH THEIR FIRST CLOSE-UP LOOK AT EACH OTHER. BOTH SIDES ARE TESTING, PROBING, CHECKING ON FLEXIBILITY AND TOUGHNESS. AND THESE FIRST IMPRESSIONS, RIGHT OR WRONG, WILL HELP SHAPE U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DECADE.

ABC EVENING NEWS

REASONER: ARMS SALES WAS ONE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN MOSCOW TODAY, DURING FIVE HOURS OF TALKS BETWEEN SECSTATE
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VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO. THE TALKS ALSO TOUCHED ON THE MIDEAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND TROOP REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. (NOTHING FROM DUNSMORE.)

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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